

1980–1982. During this time she also taught courses on developmental issues and adult education at local community colleges. From 1983 to 1992, she helped coordinate several different efforts to provide services at the county and State level to adults and children in need of a helping hand. She also served the State Assembly as an analyst on legislation relating to social and developmental services, mental health and rehabilitation.

In 1992, Ms. Gardner joined NBRC as executive director, taking responsibility for leadership and management of this \$105 million organization. NBRC serves a population of over 6,000 people with developmental disabilities around the North Bay region of Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties. Based on a belief that people with developmental disabilities should have access to the same opportunities available to other citizens, NBRC offers a wide variety of services tailored to the individual. These services include diagnostic functions, individual planning, family support, advocacy and transition services, as well as an excellent array of community education and program development opportunities. The work Ms. Gardner has led at NBRC has been of immense value to thousands of individuals and families throughout the North Bay to help them rise above disability.

Ms. Gardner has served on too many boards and commissions to enumerate them all. Her work with non-profits and commissions throughout California has made her a truly valued member of our community and an acknowledged leader in her field. In addition to her work on disabilities, she remains dedicated to her husband, five children, five grandchildren, and two dogs.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Nancy Gardner for 15 years of hard work guiding the North Bay Regional Center. Her determined leadership has bettered the lives of thousands of individuals throughout the region. Her work is not done, however, and she is moving on to fuse her love of dogs with her deep passion for aiding people with disabilities.

HONORING DR. LUIS LEAL ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Professor Luis Leal on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Professor Leal is a distinguished member of the Santa Barbara community. He is a man who has devoted his life to scholarship and education, a man dedicated to expressing and revealing the richness of Mexican, Latin American, and Chicano literature and culture.

Luis Leal was born in 1907 and grew up in Mexico City during the Mexican Revolution. He came to the United States seeking a college education and earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern University. After a hiatus to serve in World War II, Leal earned his doctorate from the University of Chicago.

After a career teaching at the University of Mississippi, Emory University, and the University of Illinois, Leal "retired" to the Santa Barbara area at the age of 69, only to be invited

to join the faculty at UC Santa Barbara as a scholar and teacher, first in the Spanish and Portuguese Department and then in the newly established Center for Chicano Studies.

Leal has enjoyed a distinguished career as one of the most highly regarded scholars of Mexican and Latin American literature, and was one of the first to draw attention to this relatively new field of study. He is the author of over 30 books and 300 articles. In 1988, he received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies in recognition of his lifetime achievement. In 1995, UCSB created the Luis Leal Endowed Chair in Chicano Studies in recognition of his accomplishments.

Leal has also received renowned cultural honors from the Mexican and American governments. In 1992, Mexican President Salinas awarded Leal the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest award granted to foreign citizens. It was President Bill Clinton who presented Leal with the National Humanities Medal in 1997.

As a man who has devoted his life to education and to advancing the study of Mexican, Latin American, and Chicano literature, I today recognize Luis Leal as a distinguished scholar and professor, and as a man dedicated to making our community and this Nation a richer, more vibrant place.

HONORING JUDGE DEBRA KAZANJIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Debra Kazanjian upon being named one of "The 2007 Women of Distinction" by the Fresno County and City Republican Women Federated.

Judge Kazanjian is a graduate of California State University, Fresno where she received a bachelor of arts degree, *summa cum laude*. She earned her juris doctor degree from McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific. After completing her education, she returned to Fresno, CA, where she was born and raised. She practiced as an attorney for 19 years before being elected superior court judge in 2000. Currently, she is assigned to the probate court.

Aside from being a Superior Court Judge, Judge Kazanjian has served the legal community of Fresno County in many different capacities, including: president of the Board of Trustees of the Fresno County Law Library, two terms as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fresno County Bar Association, President of the Fresno County Young Lawyers Association, Chair of the Family Law Section of the Bar Association, member of the Domestic Violence Roundtable, and Scoring Judge at the Fresno County Mock Trial Competition. She has also spoken at numerous legal and community forums. Judge Kazanjian's community service record is as long as the list of legal services. Her community service includes: 5 years on the Fresno County Planning Commission where she also served as Chairwoman in 1995, member of the City of Fresno Charter Review Committee,

one of the 1993 Top 10 Business/Professional Women of the Year, Member and Chairwoman of the Little Hoover Commission City Clerk's Office Task Force, and member of the City of Fresno Blue Ribbon Task Force on City Council Ethics and Operations. Further, she is a past president of the Fresno State Alumni Association, and a member of the Channel 18 Business Advisory Committee and the Junior League of Fresno. Lastly, she has served in the Fresno Public Education Fund's "Principal for a Day" program.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Honorable Debra Kazanjian upon being awarded with "The 2007 Women of Distinction". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Honorable Debra Kazanjian many years of continued success.

HONORING THE WORK OF WILLIE GALVAN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Willie Galvan for his role as a dedicated advocate of Hispanic and Veterans' family rights. As National Hispanic Heritage month comes to a close, I am honored to recognize a truly invaluable member and voice of our Hispanic community.

For the last 25 years, Willie has been an active member of the American GI Forum of California, an organization that works with returning Hispanic veterans and citizens to find avenues that can improve community conditions. In addition to his long-term commitment as a member, Willie also currently serves as the organization's state commander.

Originally from Victoria, TX, Willie Galvan's community organizing amongst Hispanic veterans and families began in his hometown after his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army. His work to address inequity continued when Willie and his family moved to California in the early 1970s. In the central coast communities, Willie has maintained his support for veterans while also dedicating himself to the needs of low-income families. Willie has worked tirelessly on a range of initiatives, from organizing youth development programs to starting a non-profit health care clinic, later to become Marian Community Clinic.

As a man who has spent his life committed to alleviating the struggles within the Hispanic community, Willie deserves this and many more honors. Today I stand before you expressing thanks and respect for Willie Galvan, a man whose compassion and service to those community members most in need is an example to all.

IN HONOR OF BIG BETHEL AFRI- CAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is an honor that I am able to help celebrate